

From: Luther Moon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 8:47pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

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>From the desk of Luther Moon

January 3, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

This letter is to talk to you about my feelings of the Governments involvement with, and the handling of, the Antitrust case against Microsoft Corporation.

To begin with, I do not feel this action is being taken against Microsoft on behalf of the American consumer. Fact is, it was then and is now, the consumer that decided what/which product they wanted and liked best. It was this very freedom of choice by the consumer and freedom of enterprise for American Businesses that has made Microsoft? and America, the great country it is today.

It has been the great innovators like the John Rockefellers, JP Morgans, Andrew Carnegies Henry Fords, and the Bill Gates of our time that has made this Country the great success it enjoys today? and, it was this freedom to innovate that encouraged them to get up every morning and forge ahead with their ideas and ideals. What might happen to this nation, and its great Corporations, if this freedom to express and freedom to innovate continues to get trampled on?

It appears to me that the consumer can only be hurt and made to suffer the consequence of higher prices and less quality of product should the Government begin the dictatorial regulation of and dictating to a company what it can or cannot supply to, or for the benefit of, the consumer.

It has been due to this freedom of innovation from Microsoft that the American consumer can today afford to have a computer in his home. It is also a computer in every home that has spurred an economic growth in this country unsurpassed by any nation in the world.

It wasn't until the dictatorial intervention of our Government into the innovative business of one of this Nations greatest Companies? that this Country?s economy, over night, started on a downslide, and economic collapse, unparalleled in the history of the world. The economic destruction of recourses that has ensued has been devastating to the American consumer.

What, with all this ?Consumer protection? levied against the consumer in the guise of protecting the consumer, I?m just not sure I can afford, or need, anymore of this kind of consumer protection. I feel that I have received far more value and protection from Microsoft than I have in the protectionist interference from our Government.

This should be the business of business and not the interference of Government to dictate to the consumer what he or she can or cannot have and at what price we must pay for it. As a consumer? and a Citizen of this great Land, I feel that I, and I alone, should decide what is served on my plate and how it is prepared.

I have Windows on my computer, not because someone else decided for me what I should use? and not because Microsoft decided for me what I should use? I decided which was best for me from the many choices that were, and still are, available on the market today. And yes, there are choices out there. I?m sorry, but I am being made to feel that because of the wishes of a mere handful, it is the masses that must pay and this is just not right. It must not be right.

What kind of settlement is it that would require a company to document and to disclose to its competitors the internal makeup of the various internal interfaces of its operating system products, and yet, that is exactly what this settlement requires of Microsoft. What more could Microsoft?s competitors wish for and be more fair than this? Surely, this must be a

first for an antitrust settlement.

In closing, I would like to say I am a small-business owner and I depend on Microsoft to keep things running for me. If the federal government pursues three more years of litigation in this matter, it would not only hurt Microsoft, but millions of home computer users and businesses across the country. I urge you to please put these lawsuits to rest before our economy deteriorates any further. By intervening in business, you would only be discouraging competition by creating fear on the part of other companies wanting to enter the market. Bill Gates made some excellent business decisions, and he is now being punished for it. His company has done so much for the economy, and now the government is just wasting more money picking on their company.

Sincerely,

Luther Moon